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# CURRENT LITERATURE.

## BOOK REVIEWS.

### Dune work in Germany.

IN THIS BOOK Gerhardt<sup>1</sup> presents a very comprehensive account of the historical development, as well as the present status, of dune control in the classic dune areas along the shores of the Baltic and North seas. He has been ably assisted in the geological, floristic, and sylvicultural aspects of the work by Jentzsch, Abromeit, and Bock, respectively. The sources of the sand, the factors at work, and the laws governing the movement and contour of the dunes are considered in some detail, as are also the ecological adaptations of the various species of dune plants. Historical records indicate that as early as 1738 the problem of controlling the shifting sand had been solved for certain areas; but the development of modern methods and organized work dates from about the beginning of the last century, when Biörn demonstrated that a certain combination of hedges, grass-plats, etc., is effective in checking the advance of a wandering dune. Krause and Hagen furthered the work of Biörn, both in the extension of the areas protected and in the improvement of methods. Near the town of Narmeln, situated on the Frischen Nehrung, occurs an example of their work. Two rapidly advancing dunes had already encroached upon the town limits when Krause began his work, which was prosecuted with such success that the threatening dunes were under complete control before serious damage was done, and although over half a century has passed, the town has never since been seriously threatened with a further advance of the dunes.

Excellent illustrations and diagrams aid in the clear exposition of the various devices with which the newly transplanted vegetation is protected, and the shifting sand captured and held. Directions for culture and detailed descriptions of the various grasses, shrubs, and trees recommended are given, together with a statement of the steps necessary to the final forestation of the wandering dune. The existing farms, with their gardens and orchards, where a hundred years ago were only sand wastes, and the wooded elevations that mark the site of once wandering dunes bear witness to the effectiveness of the methods used in these areas. And there appears no reason why these methods may not be successfully applied wherever the shifting sand endangers valuable property.—J. M. WESTGATE.

<sup>1</sup>GERHARDT, PAUL, *Handbuch des deutschen Dünenbaues*, pp. xxviii + 656 *figs.* 445. Berlin: Paul Parey, 1900.